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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189799 TOSEC 080292

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARAMARIBO 767 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO PRETORIA USUN AUG 10.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L
PARAMARIBO 0767

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PDEV, RH, UK, US
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ZAPU LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 9 AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JOHN D. BLACKEN HAD AN EXTENSIVE HOUR AND A HALF CONVERSATION WITH JOSHUA NKOMO IN GUYANA. YOUNG REPORTED ON THE FORWARD-LOOKING TALKS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HELD WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE AND EXPRESSED THAT THE US WAS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE BRITISH AND THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS IN FINDING A LASTING SOLUTION THAT WOULD COME ABOUT THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS BASED UPON A CONCEPT OF ONE MAN,ONE VOTE THAT
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AVERTED CIVIL WAR. NKOMO CLARIFIED HIS CONCERN ABOUT A US ROLE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE UK LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT THE US COULD NOT COME AS AN EQUAL PARTNER. ADDITIONALLY, NKOMO FOUND NO DIFFICULTY WITH BRITISH THOUGHTS ABOUT A CONSTITUTION, A BILL OF RIGHTS, AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND FREE ELECTIONS. NKOMO EXPRESSED THAT HE HAD GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO AMNESTY FOR SOLDIERS IN SMITH'S ARMY,

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STATING THAT THESE MEN ARE ONLY OBEYING ORDERS, AND THAT THERE ARE MANY OF THESE SOLDIERS THAT WANTED TO REMAIN IN AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE ZIMBABWE--BLACK AND WHITE. NKOMA IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT WHEN IN THE US. IN A LATER INTERVIEW WITH THE US PRESS, NKOMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT SEEK WAR FOR WAR"S SAKE, BUT SOUGHT THE SAME END AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JOHN D. BLACKEN, AND STONEY COOKS MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH MR. JOSHUA NKOMO OF ZAPU AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. AMBASSADOR YOUNG THANKED MR. NKOMO FOR REMAINING IN GUYANA SO THEY MIGHT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BEFORE NKOMO CONTINUED HIS TRAVELS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE US. YOUNG STATED THAT THE US WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROCEED TOWARD MAJORITY RULE WITH FREE ELECTIONS ABSENT OF CIVIL WARFARE. THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE LEADERSHIP SELECTED UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE NEEDS TO BEGIN TO MOVE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND DIVISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. NKOMO STATED THAT THIS WAS ALSO HIS DESIRE, BUT THERE WERE A FEW MEASURES THAT WEREN'T CLEAR IN TERMS OF A US ROLE. THE US COULD AND SHOULD SUPPORT THE BRITISH BUT THE TRANSFER OF POWER WAS A UK RESPONSIBILITY THAT THEY MUST LIVE UP TO. NKOMO SAID HE HAD NEVER STATED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT CONFIDENTIAL

HELP THE UK. THE UK NEEDED US SUPPORT AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT THE US SHOULD NOT CO-SPONSOR A CONFERENCE OR MEETING. NKOMO WAS CONCERNED THAT ZIMBABWE NOT BECOME A BIG POWER CONTROVERSY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE REAL QUESTION WAS HOW TO MOVE FROM WAR TO AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AND THAT WAS WHAT THE UK NEEDED TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO. NKOMO SAID HE DID NOT VIEW THE QUESTION OF A CONSTITUTION BASED UPON ONE MAN, ONE VOTE, A BILL OF RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, OR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AS A PROBLEM. IT IS THE QUESTION OF AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT THAT WAS CRUCIAL FOR A FUTURE ZIMBABWE.

3. AMBASSADOR YOUNG REITERATED THAT THE US WS CONCERNED ABOUT A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT AVOIDED CIVIL WAR, AND HE ASKED IF NKOMO HAD GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO HOW LONG AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE ALL PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ENTER THE COUNTRY AND BEGIN TO CAMPAIGN. NKOMO RESPONDED THAT THE UK HAD DISCUSSED THREE TO SIX MONTHS, BUT THAT HE FELT EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS WAS MORE RATIONAL; HOWEVER, THEY FELT THAT SIX MONTHS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. NKOMO SAID THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF WHAT FORCES WOULD RUN

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THE COUNTRY DURING THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. THERE EXISTED TWO ARMIES -- THE NATIONALISTS AND SMITH'S ARMY -- AND IF THERE WAS A UN FORCE OR A COMMONWEALTH FORCE, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THOSE ARMIES WHEN THE INTERIM FORCE PULLTED OUT. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSIONS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE AGREED TO. THE UN DIDN'T HAVE ANY FORCES. IT WAS A QUESTION OF WHAT COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE FORCES AND WHAT WAS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THOSE COUNTRIES REGARDING ZIMBABWE.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT NYERERE HAD HAD GOOD CONVERSATIONS, AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS, IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE WAS ABLE TO SATISFY PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THERE WAS A BASIS FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT. SECRETARY VANCE WOULD NO DOUBT BE ABLE TO GO
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OVER MUCH OF THIS IN NKOMO'S MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. NKOMO SAID HE VERY MUCH WANTED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE POSSIBLY ON THE 14TH WHEN VANCE IS BACK FROM LONDON.

6. NKOMO CONTRIBUTED WITH FURTHER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FORCES DURING INTERIM BY INSISTING THAT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE TWO FORCES AND THAT THE TASK WAS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO FORCES. ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE FORCES THAT EXISTED RATHER THAN ADDITIONAL FORCES. NKOMO SAID HE HAD GIVEN MUCH THOUGH TO THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF MEN FIGHTING IN SMITH'S ARMY. HE SAID THESE MEN ARE NOT TRAITORS. HE UNDERSTANDS IT IS THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THESE MEN FIND THEMSELVES. SOME KIND OF AMNESTY WAS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.

7. MR BLACKEN SAID THAT A STATEMENT ON THIS POINT MIGHT HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON MEN FIGHTING FOR SMITH. NKOMO SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE POSITION THAT THESE MEN FIND THEMSELVES-- SOLDIERS OBEYING ORDERS.

8. NKOMO SAID THAT HE HAD READ A CREDITABLE US NEWSMAN'S ARTICLE THAT SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND THE UK WANTED TO BREAK UP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT CIVIL WAR, THEY HAD WORKED HARD ON DE-EMPHASIZING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER AND THAT ALL WAS GOING VERY WELL. NKOMO SAID THAT SMITH WAS HIS WORRY -- SMITH'S ARMY -- BUT HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE PROBABLY WERE MANY IN THE SMITH ARMY THAT WANTED TO REMAIN IN AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE ZIMBABWE -- BLACK AND WHITE.

9. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH THE US PRESS, NKOMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT SEEK WAR FOR WAR'S SAKE, BUT SOUGHT THE SAME END AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG.
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